
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – May 18, 2020
ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman William D. Buckley, Selectmen William E. Kingkade, Jr. and Michael K. Walsh and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

Also present: Fire Chief Mark Nelson, Police Chief Michael Pighetti, Director of Public Health, Jackie Murphy, and IT Director, Chris George.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec 18, this meeting is being conducted via remote participation.

1. Chairman Buckley read the Governor's Order regarding the Open Meeting Law and remote participation.

2. Police Chief Mike Pighetti, Fire Chief Mark Nelson, IT Director Chris George and Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy were present to update the Board on the COVID19 virus. Chairman Buckley thanked former Fire Chief William Touhey for his service to the Town. Chief Nelson stated MEMA Situational Reports will be issued Monday through Friday. DPH informed him hospitalizations for COVID patients are running about 3%. There was an uptick to about 12% COVID positive patients. MEMA will be sending 4000 KN95 masks for Emergency Personnel tomorrow. They will also be providing cloth masks for the public. He still needs gowns. He does have tie back coveralls. Milford Regional COVID 19 inpatient cases have been reduced to 19%. There are 4 ICU patients. They still need gowns. They do have tie back gowns. They are still making their own gowns. They received 7000 ponchos. He filed a Grant Request for \$3,000.00 with MEMA for PPE. Police Chief Pighetti thanked his Officers for their service. 5 officers are out. All tested negative. PPE is OK. He did receive a donation of PPE from Amazon. Compliance from the public has been great regarding the Louisa Lake parking lot. He has addressed the issues with people parking at business lots in the area. People are parking at the Fino Field lot. Calls for service have increased a little, but here is no cause for concern. Director of Public Health Murphy said she received a Memo from the Governor's office regarding guidance for reopening. They will begin with construction, manufacturing and Houses of Worship at 40 % capacity. Next week more businesses will be allowed to reopen. She will be working with all other BOH Agents to deal with issues to reopen in a uniform manner. She is giving out handouts to the multi-lingual community at the breakfast and lunch programs. Masks have been donated by MEMA and

residents and she is giving them to area restaurants. Jim Dillon the Administrator at Genesis said they are now COVID free. The National Guard is finishing up testing at health care facilities this week. DPH is publishing the cumulative number of COVID 19 cases from January 1st to date. The average rate of cases has slowed. The Town Administrator informed the Board the Local Election has been rescheduled to June 16, 2020. The Town Clerk is emphasizing and encouraging voters to vote by mail or absentee ballot. The Board of Selectmen has moved the Voting location to the Milford High School Gymnasium located at 31 West Fountain Street. The Gymnasium is in the rear of the building. This will be the only polling location. Further, the Polling hours have been changed and will be from Noontime to 8:00 PM on June 16th. The local tax due deadline has been extended from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Due to the restrictions on large gatherings the Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Monday, May 25th has been cancelled. The July 3rd Fireworks display and the July 4th Parade have also been cancelled. We encourage residents to visit the Town website for COVID 19 updates. We have also created a new Milford Town Hall Facebook Page to help ensure important information reaches all residents. It is <https://www.facebook.com/Milford-Town-Hall>. We have begun to prepare for the reopening of Town Buildings to all employees and the public. HR Director, Maureen Giffin and I, along with Facilities Director, Carlos Benjamin, and Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy are reviewing protocols to be put in place for a safe opening. Chairman Buckley said members of the Task Force are meeting with Milford TV to update the public and the Selectmen are meeting every week. We are looking to reopen Town Buildings and he would like to hold a Selectmen meeting in Room 3 on June 1st. We will have the room sanitized, practice social distancing and wear masks. Chris George stated he is moderating the new Town Facebook Page. Chairman Buckley would like a review of all Executive Orders issued on next week's Selectmen Agenda. Selectmen Kingkade said it is important the next Selectmen meeting be at Town Hall. He asked Director Murphy how do local BOH enforce violations. She said they use an escalating Enforcement process – verbal, written, fines and then a Cease and Desist Order. The Department of Labor also has a hot line if they need help. Jackie said restaurants are not included in Phase I of the Governor's Reopening Plan. They are in Phase II. Mr. Kingkade said he heard the ABCC is looking to be more accommodating for outside dining. Jackie said she does not have any information now, but it will be addressed in a couple of weeks. She is developing materials to help restaurants open. Mr. Kingkade said Milford's COVID 19 cases are high. He asked if we are communicating with the Ecuadorian community. Jackie said we are effectively providing accessible resources including Milford TV multilingual videos. Mr. Buckley said are COVID 19 cases are high, but the numbers could be driven up by improved testing. Mr. Walsh congratulated Chief Nelson on his appointment and thanked former Chief Touhey for his service. He also thanked the Police and Fire Personnel and the Task Force members. He stressed we need to listen to the Task Force recommendations. He asked all residents to be respectful and follow the recommendations. He asked when the Parks and Playgrounds

could be reopened safely. Jackie said Parks are on the list for May 25th for consideration to be reopened. Playgrounds are in Phase II of the Plan.

3. Mr. Buckley said the next Selectmen Meeting will be at Town Hall. He also said it is time to reorganize the Board and have a new Chairman.

4. The Town Administrator reviewed the Complete Streets Program for the Board. The Town received a Grant in the amount of \$37,700.00 to fund the development of a Complete Streets Program. As a condition of the Grant we need to adopt a Complete Streets Policy. Once the Plan is adopted the Town is eligible to apply for up to \$400,000.00 per year to implement actions on the Plan. These Projects include street and sidewalk lighting and sidewalk and ADA improvements. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To adopt the Complete Streets Plan and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Plan on behalf of the Board. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

5. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 7:52 PM, UNANIMOUS. ROLL CALL VOTE. UNANIMOUS.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

William D. Buckley, Chairman

William E. Kingkade, Jr.

Michael K. Walsh